



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

HOLD FOR RELEASE 9:00 P.M. EST/10:00 P.M. EDT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2000

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RECORD NUMBER OF INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
GOING ON TO COLLEGE:
STATE'S NATIONAL RANK JUMPS TO 17TH

Indiana now ranks 17th among the 50 states in the percentage of high school graduates continuing on to college – a significant improvement over the state's ranking of 40th in 1986.

That's according to information from the National Center for Education Statistics, reported in the publication *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*.

Nearly 61% of Indiana's 1998 high school graduates went on to college that fall, compared to the national average of 57.2%, the report also shows. This is the first time ever that Indiana has exceeded the national average for the percentage of high school graduates going on to college.

"This is more proof that Indiana is on the right track," said Governor Frank O'Bannon.

"Our efforts to connect with students early in their academic careers and help them see the benefits of a college education are obviously paying off," O'Bannon said. "We've held down tuition increases at our state colleges and universities, increased state financial aid awards and assisted low-income youth through the 21st Century Scholars program. All these efforts have made it possible for more of Indiana's youth to achieve the dream of a college education."

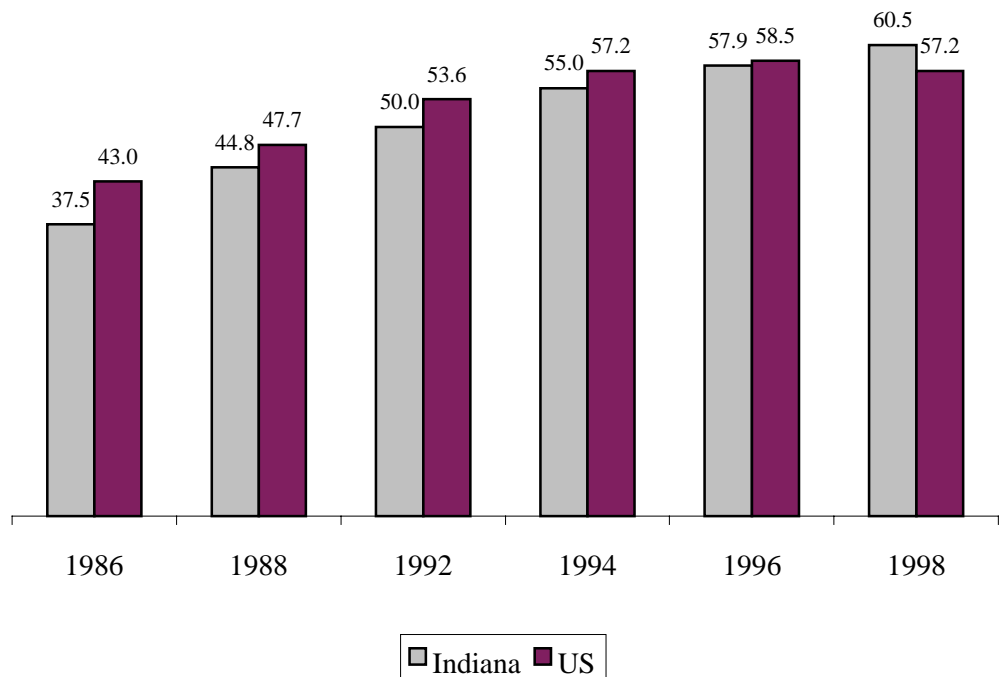
Indiana's continued improvement comes at a time when the nation as a whole is showing a "leveling-off" period in the college-going rate of high school graduates. From 1994 to 1998, the national average experienced little to no growth while Indiana's college-going rate increased by 5.5 percentage points. Indiana now places among the top ten states for percentage gains in college attendance of high school graduates.

“The increase is impressive and important in keeping our state economically competitive,” said Stan Jones, Indiana’s Commissioner for Higher Education. Jones believes this positive trend will continue well into the future with the roll-out of the governor’s Community College of Indiana initiative and the subsequent tuition freeze at the partner institutions, Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University. “The Community College of Indiana will bring more Hoosiers, including high school seniors who otherwise may not have gone on to college, into the higher education pipeline.”

Copies of the *College Attendance by High School Graduates: 1986-1998* and the *College Continuation Rate by State: 1998* are attached.

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:00 P.M. EST/10:00 P.M. EDT
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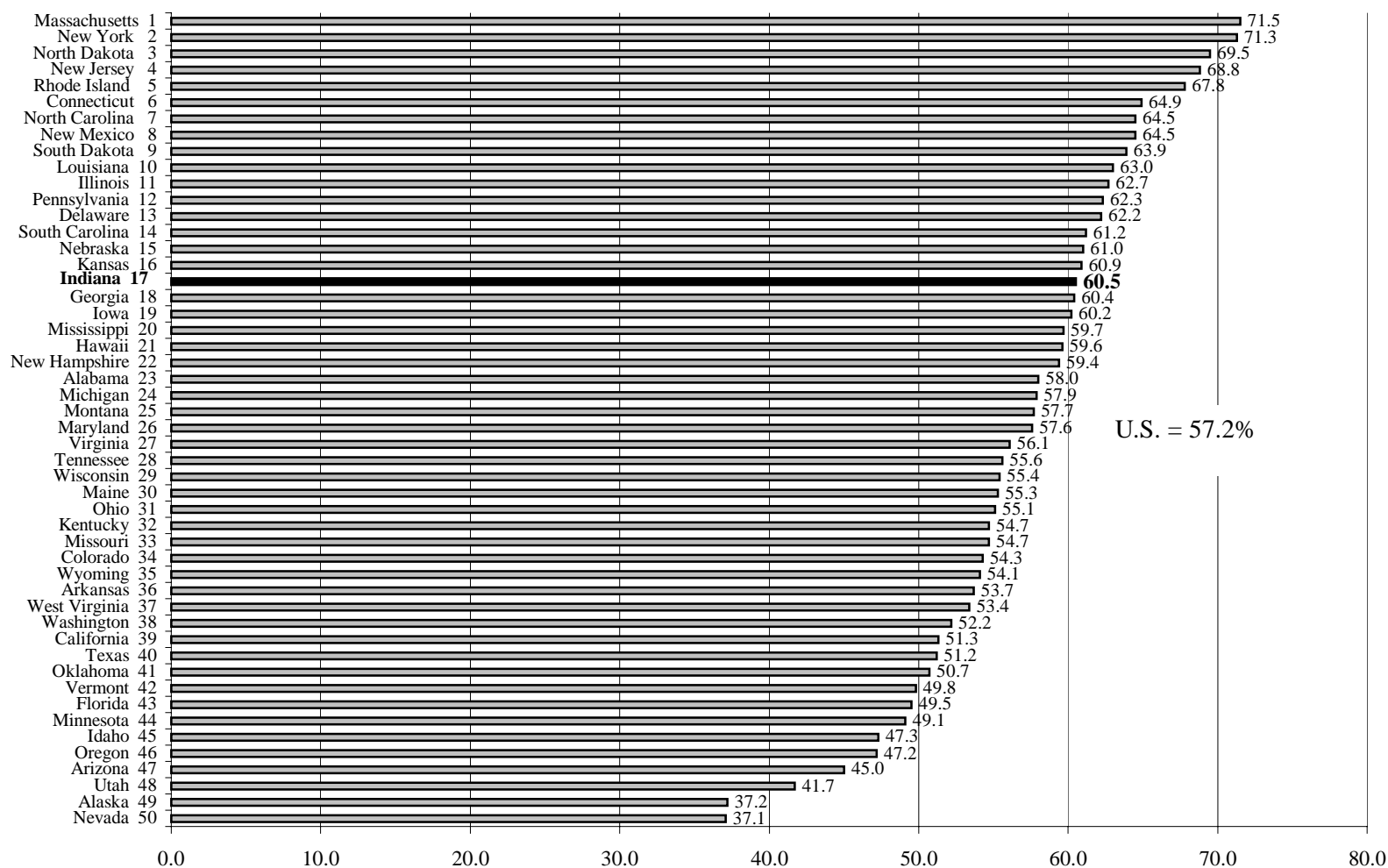
College Attendance by High School Graduates: 1986-1998
Percent of High School Graduates Enrolled the Next Fall in Postsecondary Education



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity (August 2000), Oskaloosa, Iowa.

College Continuation Rate by State: 1998

Percent of High School Graduates Enrolled the Next Fall in Postsecondary Education



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity (August 2000), Oskaloosa, Iowa.